

Spring 2013

GSA Fleet Newsletter

Toth Talk

GSA is committed to providing quality vehicles and services to help you efficiently meet your mission needs and requirements. On April 22nd, GSA Fleet announced an exciting new opportunity to assist you in complying with environmental mandates. In exchange for your agency deciding to consolidate its owned vehicles with GSA Fleet, GSA is offering to fund the entire incremental cost of acquiring new hybrid sedans. This initiative will help save you money and provide fleet data critical to effectively manage and optimize your fleet.

GSA Fleet's expansion of the electric vehicle pilot and full replacement rates will also further assist you in meeting your agency's sustainability goals.

As part of the electric vehicle pilot expansion, GSA will fund the incremental cost of 200 electric vehicles which will replace older vehicles within your fleet. GSA's Full Re-

placement Rate Program is also available to provide supplementary leasing options for alternative fuel vehicles, spreading the incremental costs for the replacement vehicle over the life of the lease.

The FY13 acquisition season brought new challenges to the federal government with the sequestration budget cuts. Due to the uncertainty of the future, GSA Fleet held vehicle orders later than usual to provide you more time to determine your fleet needs. Thank you for your continued patience. We are happy to say the majority of the vehicles have now been ordered with delivery expected in the latter half of the fiscal year for most vehicles.

GSA Fleet also made some enhancements to some existing programs as well. The Preventative Maintenance team created several improvements meant to save time and provide you more access to vital infor-

mation. Additionally, the Short Term Rental Program launched WebSTR, an online request system, making it easier than ever to submit rental requests, accept quotes and view the status of your previous requests.

As always, we appreciate your business and wish to thank you for your continued support. Please help us to further improve our service to you by completing the annual customer survey that was released electronically on May, 7th and will remain open through June, 7th.

Thank you,

William G. Toth Jr.

 Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|-------|
| GSA Fleet Hybrid Consolidation Opportunity | 2 |
| Electronic Vehicle Recall Notifications | 2 |
| Short Term Rental Launches 2 new Features | 3 |
| Preventative Maintenance Program Improvements | 3 |
| Automated MAS & Non-Standard Express Desk | 4 |
| Plug-in Electric Vehicle Pilot Program | 4 |
| Full Replacement Rate Program | 5 |
| Alternative Fuel Vehicle Options for FY2013 | 5 |
| Safety Corner—Driver Safety Resources Portal | 6 |
| Region 4 News | 7 - 9 |

GSA Fleet Hybrid Consolidation Opportunity

GSA Fleet is happy to announce the launch of our new consolidation opportunity. Through this initiative, if an agency chooses to consolidate its agency-owned vehicles into the GSA Fleet inventory, GSA will fund the total incremental cost to replace consolidated vehicles with new hybrid sedans.

At a time when government needs to make every tax dollar count, GSA is committed to creating more energy efficient and cost-saving opportunities that assists in reducing our environmental footprint. This opportunity will help make the federal fleet as efficient and effective as possible while complying with environmental mandates and meeting sustainability goals. Further, federal agencies will be able to continue operating safe, reliable vehicles to meet

their agency's mission in a time where it may not be possible to purchase and efficiently operate vehicles on their own.

Consolidating your vehicles with GSA Fleet also provides end-to-end fleet management services including vehicle acquisition and disposal, maintenance and repair, accident management / repair services, fuel, fleet purchase card, loss prevention services and an asset management system that

provides detailed and accurate data to efficiently manage fleet operations. Additionally, customer agencies are guaranteed vehicle replacements for a more modern and safe fleet, predictable budgeting, low rates, and less vehicle downtime.

The subcompact and compact sedan hybrids will both be offered for this opportunity. Based on those vehicles, the upfront incremental cost-savings to an agency on a per vehicle basis averages \$7,455.

If you are interested in participating in our vehicle consolidation opportunity, please contact GSA at gsafleet-consolidation@gsa.gov. Our network of GSA Fleet Service Representatives is also available to assist your regional personnel with any questions they may have.



Electronic Vehicle Recall Notifications

GSA Fleet is working with the largest light vehicle manufacturers to improve processes for managing and tracking vehicle recalls. The goal is to ensure no Fleet vehicles are on the road with outstanding safety recalls. GSA has been working with General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler to establish electronic processes so that notifications of new safety recalls or Field Service Actions (FSAs) are shared electronically with GSA. Currently, electronic recall information is being received from GM and Ford. By the end of the FY2013 3rd quarter, the process should

be up and running with Chrysler.

GSA Fleet will use the electronic recall information to notify customers by email of a recall or FSA along with a PDF version of the detailed recall notice. With the newly established process, these notifications can be sent as soon as manufacturers identify individual vehicles, instead of waiting for paper notifications to be delivered by mail.

In addition, along with providing a more timely notification, GSA will be able to track when recalls are

completed. This will allow for follow-up communication and ensure that no safety recall is left unresolved. In the future, GSA will be adding recall and FSA information to Fleet Drive-thru, where recall information can be quickly identified and as well as vehicles with active recalls.

The vehicle recall initiative is ensuring that drivers of vehicles leased from GSA Fleet are in safe vehicles, and guarantees safety issues are addressed in the fastest and most effective manner.

Short Term Rental Launches 2 new Features



The Short Term Rental (STR) program recently launched two new enhancements, an online request system and equipment rentals. To date, these two new initiatives were introduced for limited customer use.

The new online request system, called WebSTR, allows customers to create and submit requests, review and select vendor quotes at anytime. Additionally, the new system allows management controls for organizations with multi authority level users and has the capability to restrict the types of vehicles and equipment specific users can request.

Starting June 15th, 2013, all STR requests must be created in WebSTR, although, the WebSTR system is currently available for early registration and use. If you are interested in using WebSTR now and registering early, please visit WebSTR at <http://str.fas.gsa.gov>. GSA will provide virtual training once you register in WebSTR.

The new web system allowed for the addition of equipment rentals to STR. Over 300 unique items of equipment have been added to the STR offerings including bulldozers, trenchers, rollers, forklifts, boom lifts, scissor lifts and generators. Equipment rentals can be for up to

365 days. Vehicle rentals are still limited to 120 days.

The STR program was launched in 2007 in response to customers in need of additional vehicles due to seasonal surges or vehicles temporarily out of service. Since then, the program has grown to nearly 11,000 annual rentals last year. The new online request system, WebSTR, is streamlining the request, procurement and billing process for both customers and vendors.

To find out more about the STR program and to download the request form go to www.gsa.gov/fleetsolutions.

Preventative Maintenance Program Improvements

Starting October 1st 2012, GSA Fleet officially rolled out a number of improvements to our Preventative Maintenance (PM) program.

These improvements are all designed to help save time and provide more information.

The improvements include:

- Automating the capture of data on completed PMs
- Incorporating a new resource in Fleet Drive-thru to check on vehicle PMs and estimated due dates
- Automating customer notifications for vehicles that are due for PMs
- Utilizing a new PM schedule, taking advantage of Oil Life System (OLS) technology coming standard on the majority of Fleet vehicles

When PMs are paid for using the Fleet Card or authorized through the Maintenance Control Center, the vehicle's history will be automatically updated to reflect the completed service. An estimated 75 percent of completed PMs will be captured this way. This means less time reporting completed PMs.

For those PMs that are not captured by the new process, a new module was created on the Fleet Drive-thru website, PM Express, where all vehicles can be seen and their PM history updated (as needed). Another great feature of PM Express is its reporting capabilities. Via PM Express, vehicles due for a PM can be reviewed along with estimated dates for when other vehicles will need service.

The third enhancement will allow monthly PM notifications to be emailed directly to the designated vehicle con-

tact. These notifications will include a list of all vehicles that need to be serviced along with a description of what services need to be performed.

The last improvement takes advantage of OLS technologies that come standard on the majority of new light duty vehicles. This technology calculates the remaining effective life of the motor oil in the vehicle, and informs the driver when the oil needs to be changed. New PM schedules were developed for those vehicles equipped with this technology, allowing GSA to optimize the intervals between PMs.

When implemented together, these program enhancements will save everyone time, and provide more up-to-date information that is available on demand. In addition, a reduction in oil consumption and related expenses is realized, helping to keep the GSA Fleet rates down.



Plug-in Electric Vehicle Pilot Program

GSA introduced plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) into the federal fleet by initiating a 116 vehicle pilot in 2011. This pilot represented a significant step in the federal fleet's integration of electric vehicles and introduced agencies to a vehicle option that has the potential to drastically reduce petroleum imports and harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

GSA funded the purchase of the PEVs and charging stations for each vehicle, if requested. In 2012, all 116 vehicles and associated charg-



ing stations were delivered to the participating customers.

For 2013, MVM has expanded this pilot program and will introduce another 200 PEVs into the federal fleet. Similar to the first pilot, GSA will fund the acquisition of all 200 vehicles and the charging stations. The pilot will incorporate additional federal agencies and locations.

A mix of commercially-available plug-in hybrid electric & battery electric light duty vehicles, acquired through the GSA Fleet Program, will be offered in the pilot. This includes the Chevrolet Volt, the Ford CMAX, the Ford Focus and the Mitsubishi iMiEV. These vehicles will be given to customers

in exchange for a replacement vehicle without the GSA leased fleet.



GSA will also purchase and offer different types of charging stations in an effort to remain supportive and flexible to our customers' varying requirements. Phase two of the pilot is designed to continue to promote the use of electric vehicles throughout federal agencies nationwide.

Automated MAS & Non-Standard Express Desk

GSA Automotive has developed a process that will allow authorized AutoChoice users to submit Express Desk, Multiple Award Schedule (MAS), and/or Non-Standard Vehicle orders electronically.

This new feature is available now in AutoChoice and we encourage you to become familiar with the new process by checking out gsa.gov/autochoice.

Benefits of the electronic submission process:

- Improves accountability of agency personal property.
- Eliminates the use of paper, reducing carbon footprint.
- Reduces ordering errors during submission, i.e. improves accuracy.
- Establishes AutoChoice as the single online tool to pro-

vide complete ordering history of Executive and DoD vehicle purchases.

GSA prides itself on streamlining processes and bringing efficiency to the vehicle ordering and delivery timeline. If you require further assistance with your Express Desk, Multiple Award (MAS) and/or Non-Standard submissions, please contact the Program Office at Vehicle.Buying@gsa.gov or 703-605-CARS (2277).

Full Replacement Rate Program

GSA Fleet is excited to introduce the FY13 Full Replacement Rate Program that provides additional vehicle leasing options for Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFV) in order to help achieve the goals outlined in the May 2011 Presidential Memorandum. As a valued customer and partner with GSA Fleet, we are confident the Full Replacement Rate Program will provide your agency with continued vehicle acquisition support and assist in effectively planning for future monetary outlays.

So what is the Full Replacement Rate Program and how can it help my agency?

This program allows you (the customer) to pay a lease rate for AFVs that factor in the incremental cost of a replacement vehicle over the lifetime of the vehicle. So rather than paying the incremental cost of the vehi-

cle at each replacement cycle, the rates in this program generate the funding required to replace the vehicle with a similar AFV. By utilizing this program, you will have access to the benefits listed below:

- Increases ease of AFV acquisitions for local customers with their own funding and for customers with small leased fleets that cannot generate large AFV surcharge funds.
- Stabilizes the AFV incremental costs by spreading the costs over the lease term, rather than collecting it in the first year.
- Ensures capital is available to acquire similar AFV vehicles once vehicles are eligible for replacement. Eliminates the upfront incremental on subse-

quent replacements of pilot vehicles.

- Provides agencies with additional AFV surcharge options— (1) Use the new process to reduce the national surcharge and limit the impact on local fleets that do not want or need expensive AFVs. (2) Use the new process while maintaining the current surcharge level and be able to increase the number of national AFV acquisitions. (3) Do not use the new process and continue with the current funding mechanisms.

If you are interested in participating in the Full Replacement Rate Program, please contact your local Fleet Service Representative (FSR) in order to identify the most suitable replacement vehicle(s) for your agency's mission needs.

Alternative Fuel Vehicle Options for FY2013

GSA provides professional vehicle contracting to offer a wide variety of vehicle types. In FY2011, GSA offered 502 alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) configurations. In FY2012, this increased to 894 offerings. For FY2013, GSA has 1,537 AFV configurations available to cus-

tomers. Below is a list of all the available AFV options for:

- 1,070 Bio Diesel (B20)
- 236 E85
- 99 Hybrid Electric
- 46 Compressed Natural Gas
- 24 Low Greenhouse Gas (conventionally fueled)
- 10 Battery Electric

- 42 Liquid Propane Gas
- 10 Liquid Natural Gas

GSA is here to help you meet federal mandates and green your fleet. To find out more information on the AFVs available, please contact your local Fleet Service Representative.





New Age of Technology: New Distractions



Every year there is excitement as vehicle manufacturers come out with flashy, nifty electronic applications to keep the modern driver connected. Interactive dashboards featured in new vehicle models offer all the bells and whistles of modern technology. Recent studies show that 90% of American drivers keep their cell phones in their hand, lap, cup holder or passenger seat while in their cars¹, which shows their dedication to remaining connected behind the wheel.

What are drivers with smart phones doing behind the wheel?

- 33% are surfing the Web
- 30% are sending emails or text messages
- 67% are using GPS or navigation¹

Auto makers are stepping up to combat distracted driving by offering features like in-vehicle Bluetooth

connectivity to make using technology safer. However, many of the in-vehicle applications which are supposed to make technology safer end up further distracting drivers.

Many manufacturers offer in-vehicle interface systems with potential to distract. Each of these onboard systems includes helpful applications such as voice-guided navigation and voice-activated media controls.

The danger is found in the extra capabilities of these systems which take the drivers eyes off the road. Applications allowing drivers to utilize social media, make dinner reservations, browse movie listings or check scores or weather all are unsafe activities while driving because they take the focus away from driving.

Anything that takes a driver's eyes off the road for more than two seconds increases the risk of a crash, and 80% of crashes occur when the

driver is not paying attention within three seconds of the collision occurring².

The key to avoiding danger is awareness. Driver distraction is not inevitable- it is avoidable by a driver's mindfulness of potential distractions. A recent study shows that driver distraction correlates with habitual action, such as routinely checking your phone, and is triggered by inattention³. So as you receive your new Fleet vehicles this year, alert yourself and your colleagues to likely in-vehicle distractions and keep your eyes and focus on the road.

1 Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers

2 Virginia Tech

3 University of Michigan

**ONE TEXT OR CALL COULD
WRECK
IT ALL**

New for Fleet Customers: Driver Safety Resources Portal!

A new Driver Safety Resources portal is available on GSA Fleet Drive-thru (<http://drivethru.fas.gsa.gov>). In this tab you'll find fleet safety newsletters, brochures, and presentations covering a wide range of safe-driving topics. Whether you're a Fleet Manager looking for assistance in meeting your organizational safety goals or a driver curious about a specific subject, the resources you'll find here cover a wide variety of safe driving topics relevant to all drivers.

What you'll find on the Driver Safety Resources portal:

- **Training:** watch our new Accident Management and Prevention recorded presentation (17 minutes) and find a link to the online Defensive Driving Course. This course is free to all drivers of GSA Fleet vehicles!
- **Videos:** short and impactful clips, stories and messages about driver distraction and buckling up
- **Newsletters:** full of facts, tips and information on topics including driver fatigue, following distance, intersections, parking

lots, driver aggression and the most up-to-date state laws

- **Handouts:** such as the Six Most Dangerous Driving Behaviors, Driver Facts you Must Know, 15-Passenger Van Safety, and Distracted Driving Brochures

For additional research, we've posted links to the latest news from the Department of Transportation and other prominent driver safety organizations. Find these materials and much more on the Drive-thru portal. Check it out today!



If you must print this newsletter, please recycle
after reading.

Be kind to the environment.



Regional Reach

Familiar Faces.....Different Places!



The Atlanta Regional Office welcomes Jennifer Rapé who joined GSA Fleet staff in 2008 as a Fleet Service Representative (FSR) at the GA Fleet Management Center (FMC). She was the team lead for the first GSA Federal Acquisition Service *Sustainable in Procurement Fellows Program*. She also served as the team lead for Region 4's Vendor Management Program. Enhanced by a BA in International Affairs from Florida State and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of West Florida, Jennifer brings customer familiarity, experience, and a fresh outlook to the Regional Office environment.



FMC 4 is pleased to announce the selection of Teresa McLeod as the Senior FSR at the Fort Jackson, SC Fleet Office. Teresa came aboard with GSA in 1990, and worked in an administrative capacity at Fort Bragg, NC until 2004. She served as a Fleet Service Representative for nine years. She takes pride in the fact that she serves as a civil servant and enjoys her role in providing service to the American people. Teresa has a wealth of knowledge of her customers and vendors and has done a wonderful job as an FSR. She has demonstrated great leadership skills and will be an asset to the Fort Jackson Fleet Office.



The GA FMC welcomes David Baker. Prior to coming to GSA David served in the Army for 22 years with 18 years as an Automotive Maintenance Manager, a Warrant Officer, and in the Gulf War. He has also held positions as Service Manager for Earl's Transport and Fleet Manager for Real Transport. For the last 11 years he served as a technician at the GSA Maintenance Control Center (MCC) in Riverdale, GA. Additionally, he holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Resources Management from Troy State University. His education and lifetime experience bring a truckload of expertise to the GA FMC.

Location: McCoy Federal Building
Capital St Conference Room - 1st floor
100 West Capitol Street
Jackson, MS 39269

Time: 9:00 - 12:00pm

The AL/MS/NW FL FMC will be conducting a Customer Focus Seminar in Jackson, MS on July 31, 2013.

Please call Jerrick Smith at 601-965-4193 or David Grantham at 601-965-4192 for further information

Regional Reach

New Faces Around the Region



GA FMC welcomes Maurice Lofton. Originally from Mount Olive, NC, Maurice comes to GSA from the Army with a maintenance background that spans 20 years. He has served in various roles from Heavy Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic to managing / supervising Heavy Mobile Equipment Repairers. During his Army career, Maurice spent time in various locations: Germany; Fort Campbell, KY; Fort Gillem, GA; Fort Benning, GA...to name a few. He has deployed twice in support of the Global War on Terror in 2003 and 2007. Maurice continues to serve in the Army Reserves as a Chief Warrant Officer (CW2). Maurice has also held positions with the Cobb County Board of Commissioners and the Georgia Department of Corrections as a Corrections Officer.

Maurice is active in the community including, coaching of local recreational sport teams and is an active member of the hospitality ministry of Cascade UMC of Atlanta, GA. In addition, Maurice holds a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration from Grantham University in Kansas City, Missouri.



Nathan Barr recently joined the staff of our Riverdale, GA MCC. Native of Orlando, Florida he resided in Colorado Springs, CO. He enlisted with the U.S. Army, where he retired after 25 years of faithful service, as a Chief Warrant Officer 4 Senior Maintenance Technician. In his last assignment, he served as the Senior Maintenance Technician in 4th Brigade, 4IBCT, 4 ID Fort

Carson, CO. He served in various locations domestically and abroad to include Germany, Vicenza, Italy, Iraq and Afghanistan; then retired in 2013. Two years prior to joining GSA, Nathan worked as the Senior Maintenance Technician in 4- 4 IBCT. He helped to initiate and build a new Army directive, the Unit Maintained Equipment Program, which became the Army Standard for how units maintained the left-behind equipment not forward deployed to either Iraq or Afghanistan. He managed 120 personnel and the maintenance of 1,586 pieces of combat and combat-service support equipment. Nathan currently resides in Smyrna, Georgia. He enjoys spending his free time in Turner Field watching the Atlanta Braves. He also enjoys catching a live Alabama Crimson Tide game.



Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success. ~ Henry Ford



Regional Reach

New Faces Around the Region



The Riverdale, GA MCC welcomes Harold Powell to our family. Harold was born in Dothan Alabama (Roll Tide!) and is a former resident of Atlanta, GA. He served in the United States Air Force and was assigned to the 354th Civil Engineering Squadron during Operation Desert Storm. After serving his country, Harold spent well over a decade gaining a wealth of knowledge in the automotive industry. He served as a Service Manager and General Sales Manager for two of Georgia's premier dealers. Before coming to GSA he managed an Automotive Service Center for Sears Holding Corporation. Harold graduated Northside High School in Atlanta GA and obtained his bachelor's degree in Business Management from Saint Leo University, Saint Leo, FL. He currently lives in Fayetteville GA with his wife,

Alicia, and their four children. He likes to spend much of his time with friends and family and enjoys volunteering and working with the youth in his local community.



Meet and greet Eric Kshywonis. Eric recently joined the staff at the Riverdale, GA MCC. Eric was born in Fort Worth, Texas and resided in Akron, Ohio. Eric enlisted in the United States Air Force after high school and spent the majority of his time as part of the 20th Logistics Squadron as a Heavy Equipment Technician. He separated from the Air Force in 2006 and then started working on his education and professional career. Eric started two small businesses in the logistics

field and emergency roadside assistance programs. In December 2012, Eric finally left the snow (and his snow shovel!) in Ohio and relocated to Georgia — not only to be rid of the snow burden, but to also be closer to family in Marietta. There Eric enjoys playing the guitar, exploring new places, and enjoying the great outdoors on his motorcycle — an '89 Yamaha Venture Royale 1300 that he restored.



*Coming Soon To A
Location Near
You...*

LaTonya Blunt will be joining the staff at the Maintenance Control Center in Riverdale, GA later this month.

Alex Kameenui is a newly hired FSR and will be located at the FL FMC in Fort Walton Beach beginning in mid-June.

